Relations with Pakistan

1921. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the relation between India and Pakistan has detriorated recently with the repeated violation of ceasefire on the border by Pakistan army, bombing of Indian Embassy in Kabul allegedly by Pakistan's ISI activists *etc.*;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether our Prime Minister had met Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York; and

(d) if so, the details of discussion and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) The involvement of Pakistan in terrorism in India has been a factor overshadowing the overall context and content of Indo-Pak relations for a long time and has undermined progress in the bilateral dialogue process.

(c) and (d) Prime Minister met President Asif Ali Zardari on 24th September 2008 in New York. Both leaders acknowledged that the peace process has been under strain in recent months. They agreed that violence, hostility and terrorism have no place in the vision they share of the bilateral relationship, and must be visibly and verifiably prevented. Severe action would be taken against any elements directing or involved in terrorist acts. President Zardari reassured Prime Minister Singh that the Government of Pakistan stands by its commitments of January 6, 2004 of not permitting any territory under its control to be used to support terrorism in any manner.

Atomic park in Pakistan

†1922. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is preparing to establish atomic park;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Government have seen press reports about Pakistan's interest in setting up "nuclear parks" as a means to attack foreign investors interested in setting up private nuclear power plants. The stated reason for this is to meet the country's growing energy requirements.

Terrorist carnage in Mumbai

1923. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.